

Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

John 11: 21-45

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she (Martha) had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

COLLECT

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Resurrection of the Dead (c. 1250) Enamel Victoria and Albert Museum

“But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus' love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousands, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn't that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers.” – Shane Claiborne

“It makes me think of Lazarus. He must have had those shadows after his miracle. You don't spend time in the tomb without it changing you, and everyone who was waiting for you to come out.” – Sara Zarr

The blessing for Passiontide contains the words ‘May Christ crucified draw you to himself’. We are about to enter Holy Week where we walk through the last week before Jesus' crucifixion and death on Good Friday.

One way to engage with Christ crucified is through Stations of the Cross. Stations of the Cross can be done in church, with stations on the walls or placed in the church, or online with a selection of images or a video.

Stations of the Cross are also known as the Way of the Cross, the Way of Sorrows or Via Crucis. They are a series of images which depict Jesus on the day of his crucifixion, with accompanying readings and prayers.

The stations arose from pilgrims to Jerusalem and walking the way of the Via Dolorosa. There are traditions of a service on Good Friday or through Lent, with in church and online versions available.

The stations encourage reflection on the Passion of Jesus, seeing images from the Gospels and a way to engage visually with the events on the day of Jesus' death.



An embroidered version of Stations of the Cross seen at the chapel St. Martin, Maria-Anzbach, Lower Austria.



Resurrection of the Dead (c. 1250) Enamel Victoria and Albert Museum

“But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus' love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousands, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn't that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers.” – Shane Claiborne

“It makes me think of Lazarus. He must have had those shadows after his miracle. You don't spend time in the tomb without it changing you, and everyone who was waiting for you to come out.” – Sara Zarr

Online versions of the Stations of the Cross can be found at:

- An online version from St John's, Aberdeen (on Facebook) https://fb.watch/gWPOh6_X_g/
- Podcast from the Church of England with Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Paula Gooder and Rt Revd Phillip North <https://cofe-way-of-the-cross.captivate.fm/listen>
- From St Mary's RC Cathedral, Aberdeen https://youtu.be/C5aez5Pd_7E?si=R6GCBfyCEtu11NMV
- Cardinal Vincent Nichols <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/stations-of-the-cross/>

A service of the Stations of the Cross with simple images, prayers and readings can be found online (text) from All Saints Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, Ohio (USA): <http://allsaintsportsmouth.org/online-worship/stations-of-the-cross/>

Orders of Service for the Stations of the Cross are available from The Episcopal Church (IUSA)'s Book of Occasional Services (2018) or the Church of England. Both are available online.

This week you're invited to pray the Stations of the Cross, using an online video or images and an order of service online or join a service in person at a church near you.

To Listen:

The kingdom of God is justice and joy (Taizé Chant)

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1>